MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) No. An estimate has been sanctioned for Rs. 810, and it is proposed to take up the work in 1108.

Promotion of an Assistant Surgeon.

267. MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any officer in the Medical Department in the grade of an Assistant Surgeon whose promotion was barred on account of grave irregularities in his official career;

(*b*) whether the said officer was given promotion contrary to the previous proceedings; and

(*c*) whether the grave irregularities were condoned by the Government?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these do not arise.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know the name of the Deputy Surgeon who was promoted?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*): May I know who is the senior-most Assistant Surgeon?

MR. P. VISVANATHA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Investing the Protector of the Depressed Classes with powers for registering lands.

268. MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for not investing the Protecter of the Depressed Classes with powers of registry of the lands reserved for such classes?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The following extract from the G. O. defining the functions of the Protector of the Depressed Classes deals with his duties relating to land:—

"One of the most important functions of the Protector will be the selection and assignment of lands for the landless among the depressed classes. Some lands have already been reserved for them: but there is a complaint that the reservations made are not fair, that the land selected are generally unsuitable for habitation or cultivation and that they are generally inaccessible and far removed from places where the people generally have their work. It will be the duty of the Protector to inspect these areas to see if the lands are suitable and adequate and to revise the list of such lands, rejecting unsuitable areas and adding those which he considers as suitable.

The Protector should encourage the forming of settlements of the depressed classes in places where sufficiently extensive blocks of land can be set apart for them.

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